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From establishing new avenues for fundraising to supporting researchers across a range of brain diseases and disorders, 2022 was a big year for the American Brain Foundation. We continued to take steps toward our vision of life without brain disease and found new ways of investing in our philosophy of Cure One, Cure Many—and all of it was possible thanks to your support. We are proud to share some of our key accomplishments in 2022.

Last year we provided funding to 29 early-career researchers through our Next Generation Research Grants program, supporting innovative investigations across a range of brain diseases like amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), multiple sclerosis (MS), epilepsy, stroke, Parkinson’s disease, Alzheimer’s disease, and more. These investments in whole-brain research create the opportunities we need to make connections between brain diseases and generate insights and advancements that will have a ripple effect across the field and a positive impact for many patients.

One area of great potential in brain disease research is the study of protein buildups and other possible biomarkers for illnesses like Lewy body dementia, Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease, and other dementias. A single insight into one of these diseases could be the key to unlocking a wave of discoveries, including new diagnosis methods and treatments for many others.

Through our Cure One, Cure Many Award, we were able to grant $3 million to a team of researchers from the Mayo Clinic, the University of Pennsylvania, and the University of North Texas Health Science Center seeking to accelerate progress in the diagnosis of Lewy body dementia (LBD). Offered in partnership with the Alzheimer’s Association, The Michael J. Fox Foundation, and the American Academy of Neurology, this award represents an incredible opportunity to advance our understanding of LBD and other dementias.

We were also excited to launch peer-to-peer fundraising in 2022. People sometimes wonder if their gifts truly make a difference when funding such a monumental undertaking as brain disease research. Well, this past year alone, we were able to support 35 of the best young and established researchers around the world with $5.5 million to study a wide variety of diseases. This gives the medical community and our funders tremendous hope and optimism. Giving supporters like you the power to enlist your own friends, family, and expanded networks in service of such a meaningful cause will be a critical part of our success in the coming years, and we are thrilled to have your continued support.

With every study we fund, we get one step closer to a future without brain disease—because when we cure one brain disease, we will cure many. Thank you for supporting the American Brain Foundation. We look forward to all that we’ll be able to accomplish together in 2023.
GRANTS FUNDED BY RESEARCH AREA

“We’ve learned that funding research across disease categories rather than for single diseases can lead to greater innovation and advances in treatment.”
— David Dodick, MD, FAAN

NEXT GENERATION RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENTS: PAST AND PRESENT

In 2022, the American Brain Foundation funded 29 Next Generation Research Grants across multiple brain diseases. Of these, 18 were for new recipients who started multi-year clinical research projects.

Regan Lemley, MD
2022 Next Generation Research Grant Recipient

“My overall goal is to understand how we might be able to manipulate the gut bacteria to make our [anti-seizure] drugs either more effective, more tolerable, or create an ‘anti-seizure environment’ within someone’s body. I’m very thankful to the American Brain Foundation for supporting my research. I think that microbiome work or any neurologic disease really represents the goal to cure one, cure many.”

Jasmeer Chhatwal, MD, PhD
Former Next Generation Research Grant Recipient: Class of 2012

In 2012, Dr. Jasmeer Chhatwal received a Next Generation Research Grant to work on identifying specific changes in brain networks that distinguish early-onset Alzheimer’s disease from the normal progression of aging. This early-career project enabled Dr. Chhatwal to become an investigator at the Dominantly Inherited Alzheimer Network and created the foundation for his current research on improving imaging biomarkers for Alzheimer’s disease. Dr. Chhatwal is currently applying functional and molecular imaging techniques to study how targeted network degeneration in Alzheimer’s leads to memory loss.

“The fellowships that the American Brain Foundation gives are really important because they’re catching people at that time where they’re making critical decisions about their future.”

For a full list of our current researchers, visit AmericanBrainFoundation.org/NGRG
MANAGING MULTIPLE BRAIN DISEASES:
COURTNEY’S STORY

For most of her life, Courtney has lived with epilepsy, memory problems, and mental health issues like anxiety and depression resulting from a traumatic brain injury (TBI). Because brain diseases are connected, often diseases and disorders like epilepsy and TBI share linked or overlapping symptoms. In Courtney’s case, doctors told her family that she was at an increased likelihood for developing epilepsy after her TBI—but due to lack of awareness and education about the specific signs, she went another 11 years before getting an epilepsy diagnosis.

For many people like Courtney, uncovering connections between different brain diseases and disorders could mean earlier diagnosis methods and more effective treatments, making multiple conditions easier to manage.

“It would definitely be helpful if there was more funding for the American Brain Foundation. If there’s no funding, then how can we learn more about these brain conditions that people have? It really does impact people’s lives.”

— Courtney Fraser

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BOSTON | APRIL 26, 2023

This year’s event will be hosted by Jim Cramer, brain health advocate and host of CNBC’s Mad Money. We will be honoring special guests, including celebrated musician Peter Frampton, who will be honored for elevating public awareness of inclusion-body myositis, and Arianna Huffington, founder of HuffPost, who will be honored for raising awareness of the importance of sleep and brain health.

Get your in-person ticket or donate at AmericanBrainFoundation.org/C2C2023

REGISTER FOR UPCOMING WEBINARS HOSTED BY EXPERTS

| Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Autism Research with Audrey Brumback, MD, PhD | Controversies in Dementia Research with Ronald Petersen, MD, PhD |
| Monday, May 22 at 8:00 pm Eastern | Wednesday, June 21 at 8:00 pm Eastern |

See all upcoming events and register at americanbrainfoundation.org/events
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*Denotes multi-year pledge
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“I think the American Brain Foundation, given that it’s focused on a variety of neurologic disorders, really can be a lightning rod for the field. I think it can inspire the next generation of individuals to go into the study of brain disease. We have a whole history of individuals who were initially funded by the American Brain Foundation and have now become the stalwarts of the field.”

— Ronald C. Petersen
PhD, MD, FAAN
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Join the Brain Squad with a monthly donation
Include the American Brain Foundation in your will or estate plan
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